

**Orbit**

9.54 astronomical units (AU) from the Sun  
Earth is 1 AU from the Sun

**Length of year**

29.5 Earth years

**Length of Day**

10.7 Earth hours = 0.44 Earth days

**Tilt of Rotation Axis**

26.7 degrees versus 23.5 degrees for Earth

**Size**

**Diameter** = 9.1 times the diameter of Earth

**Surface Gravity**

1.14 times Earth's gravity

If you weigh 80 pounds on Earth, you would weigh about 91 pounds on Saturn!

**Mass**

95.16 times Earth's mass

**Atmosphere**

Like Jupiter, Saturn is about 75% hydrogen and 25% helium with traces of water, methane, ammonia and "rock;" this is similar to the composition of the primordial solar nebula from which the solar system was formed.

**Surface**

The gas planets do not have solid surfaces; their gaseous material simply gets denser with depth. What we see when looking at these planets are the tops of clouds high in their atmospheres.

**Moons**

Saturn has 34 named satellites, and thirteen others that have not yet been named.

**Past Missions**

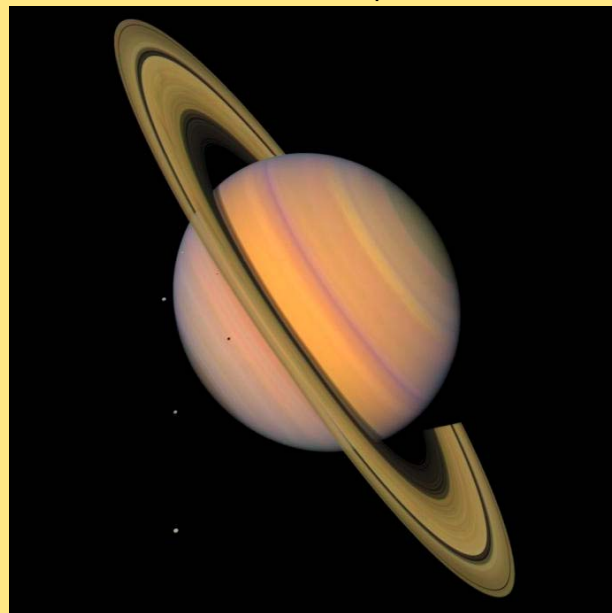
Saturn was first visited by Pioneer 11 in 1979 and later by Voyager 1 (November, 1980) and Voyager 2 (August, 1981).

**Current Missions**

*September 2005:* Cassini-Huygens arrived at Saturn on June 30, 2004. NASA's Cassini orbiter is studying Saturn and its icy moons. The European Space Agency's Huygens Probe descended through Titan's atmosphere to its surface in January 2005. Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is larger than both Mercury and Earth's Moon. Three of Saturn's named moons and one unnamed moon were discovered by the Cassini Imaging Science Team.

# Saturn

Sixth planet from the Sun



USGS/NASA PIA00349

Saturn is the Roman name for the Greek Cronos, father of Zeus/Jupiter.

Some satellites in the Saturnian system are named for Greco-Roman titans, the earth giants in Greco/Roman mythology, and giants from Greco/Roman and other mythologies.

The source of Saturn's rings is former small moons and close-flying comets.

Saturn is the least dense of the planets; its density is less than that of water.

Saturn is visible to the naked eye without the aid of a telescope. Its motion against the field of background stars shows it to be a planet. The word "planet" is derived from a Greek word for "wanderer." Saturn is the farthest planet from Earth that can be observed by the naked human eye.